

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3839

UNCLAS PARIS 25982

FOR AMBASSADOR RUSH (EUR/WE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 25698

1. BOTH AMERICAN AND FRENCH NEWS CORRESPONDENTS EAGER TO MEET YOU AND HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED SEVERAL REQUESTS. THESE RANGE FROM INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS TO INVITATIONS TO APPEAR SOON AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL AT LUNCHEONS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION AND DIPLOMATIC PRESS ASSOCIATION. LATTER CONSISTS PRINCIPALLY FRENCH WRITERS AND EDITORS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, YOUR ARRIVAL AND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS WILL BE COVERED AS NEWS STORIES, WITH RELEASE OF APPROPRIATE TEXTS, AND AT LEAST ONE TV NETWORK PLANNING SOMEWHAT DEEPER COVERAGE DAY YOU PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OF FRANCE.

3. STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU DO NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE PRESS UNTIL AFTER FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. THEREAFTER BELIEVE IT WILL BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE CONTACT EARLY AND IN ALL EVENTS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR MARTINIQUE MEETINGS.

4. WE RECOMMEND YOU SCHEDULE TWO BACKGROUND-RECEPTION AFFAIRS AS SOON AFTER CREDENTIALS CEREMONY AS

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PRACTICABLE, ONE FOR AMERICANS' ONE FOR FRENCH. WE HAVE

FOUND IT MORE

PRACTICABLE NOT RPT NOT TO MIX THE TWO GROUPS FOR THIS KIND OF AFFAIR. PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF OFF-THE-RECORD OR BACKGROUND GIVE AND TAKE IN PRESS CONFERENCE FORMAT, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS. YOUR RESIDENCE WOULD BE THE BEST LOCATION. WE RECOGNIZE THESE CONFERENCES UNLIKELY RPT UNLIKELY TO MAKE NEWS BUT BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT YOU SHOW WILLINGNESS TO GET ACQUAINTED EARLY.

5. BELIEVE YOU SHOULD POSTPONE APPEARANCE BEFORE TWO PRESS ASSOCIATIONS UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1. FOR ONE THING, YOUR SCHEDULE WILL BE HEAVY IN ONE REMAINING MONTH BEFORE MARTINIQUE MEETINGS AND SUBSTANTIAL SLOWDOWN OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. FURTHER' YOU SHOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION RESPOND QUESTIONS FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AFTER MARTINIQUE MEETINGS THAN BEFORE.

6. RECOMMEND REQUESTS FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS BE TREATED CASE BY CASE BASIS AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL. DEPENDING ON WHO IS ASKING AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE, YOU MAY WISH TO ACCEPT ONE OR MORE EVEN EARLY DURING YOUR TENURE HERE. WE WILL BE READY WITH BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN EACH INSTANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

7. DECISIONS ON ALL THESE MATTERS CAN AWAIT YOUR ARRIVAL. I FELT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF DIMENSIONS OF INTEREST AND OUR THOUGHTS TO MULL OVER IN THE INTERIM.
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